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AUTHOR	Greely, Kathy
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ABSTRACT

This book tells the story of a year in one middle school teacher's class full of lively young adolescents, highlighting exemplary ways of learning and types of schooling. This alternative model of education shows how a strong, supportive community is essential in helping students reach their highest potential. The book includes: specific projects that explain in detail critical classroom practices; class discussions that show efforts to interweave academic study with personal awareness; excerpts from student journals; and a full description of daily failures and frustrations as well as successes and victories. The 15 chapters focus on: (1) "The End of the Year"; (2) "The Class from Hell"; (3) "The Parable of the Geese"; (4) "Expert Projects"; (5) "Sameness v. Difference"; (6) "Skating in the V"; (7) "Exclusion Acts"; (8) "Making Connections"; (9) "Taking the Leap"; (10) "Warm-ups"; (11) "Finding the Story"; (12) "A Script Emerges"; (13) "Adding Music"; (14) "The Performance"; and (15) "Lessons Learned." (Contains references and an index.) (SM)

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